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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
AFRICAN AFFAIRS

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TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN RP-10

6620 002171 AF1699

STATE 128691 140308Z  
BEING FLOWN IN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

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INFO AFP-01 AS-01 EXED-01 EPS-01 DED-01 AFRA-01 ZF-01 BY-01  
RW-01 DASD-01 /B10 A3 RS

HAITI

A9

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-00 ARA-00 CG-00 G-01 DASY-00  
DDDE-00 DOTE-00 EUR-00 OIGO-01 NA-09 TEDE-00 IO-16  
ADS-00 OIC-02 SR-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 FMP-00 /B43R

DRAFTED BY: RP/P: MTHENNELLY

APPROVED BY: RP: PEDARLEY

C: TLOAR

RP/P: DRHUNTER

IO/E: REDRESLER

RP/P: MP2UMMINALE

P 140307Z MAY 94

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY ZAGREB

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 128691

E.O. 12356: DECL. DADR

TAGS: PREF SAID NA RV BK

SUBJECT: COUNSELOR WIRTH'S MEETING ON MAY 10 WITH UNHCR OGATA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING A MAY 10 CALL ON COUNSELOR  
TIMOTHY WIRTH, UNHCR OGATA DISCUSSED RWANDA, HAITI AND

BOSNIA REFUGEE ISSUES. OGATA OFFERED UNHCR'S ASSISTANCE  
TO FACILITATE A NEW U.S. POLICY ON HAITIAN REFUGEES, [REDACTED]

SUMMARY.

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2. UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) SADANO  
OGATA CALLED ON COUNSELOR TIMOTHY WIRTH ON MAY 10 AND  
ATTENDED A LUNCH HOSTED BY COUNSELOR WIRTH IN HER HONOR.  
OGATA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOREN JESSEN-PETERSEN AND  
FRANCOIS FOUMAT FROM GENEVA AND RENE VAN ROOYEN FROM THE  
UNHCR WASHINGTON OFFICE. RP ACTING DIRECTOR OAKLEY,  
IO/ESA DIRECTOR RALPH BRESLER, C STAFFER LOAR AND AN RP  
NOTETAKER (KENNELLY) ALSO ATTENDED.

3. COUNSELOR WIRTH TOLD MRS. OGATA THAT AT A TIME WHEN  
THERE IS A LOT OF SKEPTICISM AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE  
ABOUT THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS, UNHCR STANDS AS A  
SHINING EXAMPLE OF A UN ORGANIZATION THAT IS ABLE TO GET  
A JOB DONE. OGATA NOTED THAT UNHCR, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IS A "DOING ORGANIZATION," BUT  
THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT  
IT IS THAT UNHCR DOES.

B1

RWANDA

4. OGATA AND WIRTH DISCUSSED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN  
RWANDA. OGATA NOTED THAT HER ORGANIZATION WAS  
INCREASINGLY ASKED TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF IN  
SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT, AS IS THE CASE IN BOSNIA AND

RWANDA. SHE SAID THAT UNHCR BELIEVES THERE ARE CURRENTLY  
150-200,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA, AND UNHCR  
EXPECTS THE NUMBER TO CLIMB TO 250,000. OGATA THANKED  
WIRTH FOR THE GENEROUS USG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO UNHCR  
FOR THE RWANDAN CRISIS, INCLUDING THE RELIEF SUPPLIES

5. OGATA SAID THAT IT WAS FORTUITOUS THAT HER VISIT  
COINCIDED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO REEXAMINE U.S.  
POLICY TOWARDS HAITI. "UNHCR IS READY TO COOPERATE AND  
FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW POLICIES," SAID  
OGATA. SHE ASKED WHAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR OFF-SHORE  
PROCESSING WERE BEING CONSIDERED. RP ACTING DIRECTOR  
OAKLEY SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HOPED TO FIND A LAND  
FACILITY ON WHICH TO CONDUCT SCREENING; IN THAT CASE,  
TRANSFERRING HAITIANS FROM COAST GUARD SHIPS TO OTHER  
VESSELS WOULD BE A TEMPORARY MEASURE. WHATEVER THE NEW  
SYSTEM, OAKLEY SAID, IT WILL BE VERY EXPENSIVE. OGATA  
SAID SHE WOULD BE NAMING AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE UNHCR'S  
"FOCAL POINT" ON HAITI ISSUES.

6. OAKLEY SAID THE NEW POLICY WOULD FOCUS FIRST ON  
REFUGEE SCREENING AND RESETTLEMENT, AND THEN ON  
PROTECTION. WIRTH NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN THE  
PROCESS OF APPROACHING OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION TO  
ASK THEM IF THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT HAITIANS, BUT  
SAID THERE WAS GREAT RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF MOST  
COUNTRIES. OGATA SAID SHE REALIZED THIS WAS A DIFFICULT

TASK, AND THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD HAD ONLY LIMITED  
SUCCESS IN 1991. UNHCR APPRECIATED, HOWEVER, THE  
REINTEGRATED EFFORT OF THE USG IN THIS REGARD. OAKLEY  
SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HOPED THAT THERE COULD BE TWO  
OR THREE PROCESSING CENTERS IN THE REGION TO EMPHASIZE  
THAT PROTECTION OF HAITIANS WAS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY  
AND THAT NO ONE COUNTRY HAD TO "GO IT ALONE."

7. OGATA TOLD WIRTH THE GENERALIZED NATURE OF THE  
VIOLENCE IN HAITI MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SET UP CRITERIA  
FOR PROCESSING REFUGEES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WIRTH AND OAKLEY REPLIED THAT  
THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY WAS TO RETURN NON-REFUGEES.  
OAKLEY SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE  
UNHCR WORKING MORE ACTIVELY IN THE COUNTRY AND OGATA  
AGREED.

B1

8. WIRTH DISCUSSED HIS CONCERN THAT HAITIAN OUTFLOWS MAY  
INCREASE AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASED SANCTIONS. OGATA  
SAID IT WAS VITAL TO GIVE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO HAITIANS THAT  
THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT RESETTLE INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT  
EVIDENCE OF PERSECUTION. SHE DREW A PARALLEL WITH  
VIETNAM, WHERE SHE RECENTLY TRAVELLED. SHE SPOKE WITH  
MANY RETURNEES WHILE SHE WAS THERE, WHO TOLD HER THAT  
THEY LEFT SEEING A BETTER LIFE, AND THEY CAME BACK  
BECAUSE IT WAS CLEAR TO THEM THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR  
RESETTLEMENT. [REDACTED]

B1

BOSNIA

9. OGATA SAID THAT IT IS RELATIVELY EASY FOR UNHCR TO  
OPERATE IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE  
MUSLIM-CROAT FEDERATION. SHE IS ENCOURAGED BY THE RETURN  
OF COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC ON THE ROADS IN THIS REGION. UNHCR  
HAS BEEN DISCUSSING THE REHABILITATION ISSUES ASSOCIATED  
WITH RETURN AND IS ALREADY PROVIDING SEEDS AND SPARE  
PARTS. WHILE UNHCR IS WILLING TO FACILITATE REPATRIATION  
FOR THOSE BOSNIANS WHO WISH TO RETURN, UNHCR "IS NOT NOW  
IN A POSITION TO ORGANIZE REPATRIATION OR SAY THAT  
TEMPORARY PROTECTION IS NO LONGER NECESSARY," SHE SAID.

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THE PRIORITY, ACCORDING TO OGATA, HAS TO BE A CEASE-FIRE,  
EVEN BEFORE A POLITICAL AGREEMENT.

10. WIRTH ASKED OGATA IF SHE HAD ANY HOPE THAT THE  
REGION WAS BEGINNING TO QUIET DOWN. OGATA SAID "WE WILL  
HAVE TO SEE WHAT AIR STRIKES CAN PRODUCE."

B1

TALBOTT

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